

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

City of Cockburn

Club and Volunteer Sundowner

Friday 7 October, 6pm

Good evening and welcome to the third City of Cockburn Sporting Club and Volunteer Sundowner. It is a pleasure to be here tonight to acknowledge the priceless contributions you as volunteers are making to the local Cockburn community.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Nyungar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we are meeting tonight and I pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Nyungar Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be present.

I would also like to acknowledge guests including:

I would like to acknowledge the City's elected members, Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes, Clr Allen, Clr Portelli, Clr Eva, Clr Terblanche and also our City Council here tonight; Stephen Cain – CEO, Gail Bowman - Manager Community Development, Rob Avard - Manager Recreation and Community Safety,

Simone Sieber and Sam Mourish from Family & Community Development, Susan Butler and Catherine Cramp from Sport & Recreation, as well as Ada Wong from the Volunteer Resource Centre.

Tonight will be an informal event and a chance for you to get to know fellow volunteers and speak directly with staff from the City of Cockburn. There is a wealth of information and knowledge here so make the most of meeting new people and hearing their volunteering stories.

We have over 300 not-for-profit community groups in Cockburn that rely on volunteers like yourselves.

One of the well-known benefits of volunteering is the impact on the community - volunteers often playing an active role in creating better neighbourhoods.

Other benefits of volunteering include:

- boosting your social skills
- introducing you to people with common interests and
- strengthening your connection to the local community.

Volunteering has even been documented to increase self-confidence, reduce stress and depression and increase your life expectancy; if that's not a reason to volunteer I don't know what is.

However, it is important to acknowledge that volunteering is a two-way street. It can benefit you as much as the cause or organisation you choose to help. On a bigger scale dedicating your time has a profound impact on the entire state.

For example:

- In 2015 alone the value of volunteering in WA was greater than \$39 billion.
- West Australians have donated more than 315 million hours to volunteering.
- For every dollar invested in volunteering there is a \$4.50 return to the community.
- And volunteering is treated as a sector in its own right and is the State's largest industry by employment.

These are some astounding figures that you are all contributing to every time you volunteer. Your time is clearly of great value and I hope you are all proud of the work you are doing as it is making

real difference to the community and the economy. On behalf of the City of Cockburn I would like to thank you for your contributions.

In line with tonight's networking theme, we will start with ice-breaker activities to get to know each other better.

Following this you are encouraged to mingle with the other volunteers here and whilst the very talented, Ben Bernal performs for us.

The City's staff have an information stall here tonight and are happy to advise you on how the City can help volunteers and not-for-profits, so please feel free to stop by and have a chat.

We are very proud and excited at the growing success of our volunteers. Thank you once again for being here tonight and volunteering in Cockburn.

Please enjoy the evening.

Thank you.